

Book Reviews

Anaphylaxis and Sensitization. R. Cranston Low, M.D., F.R.C.P. 384 pages, 16 coloured plates, 7 half-tone illustrations. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 1924.

Dr. Low's book has a wider scope than that indicated by the title. It soon becomes apparent, in studies of this nature, how closely linked are anaphylaxis and sensitization with a multitude of other subjects, and one therefore finds in this book, discussions on such conditions as urticaria, drug eruptions, the erythemata, and various skin infections. The book, in fact, is based on work carried out in the Skin Department of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and Dr. Low expresses the hope that it will be of assistance to the pathologist and bacteriologist, as well as the dermatologist. It is this catholic point of view which makes the book additionally attractive to the general practitioner.

It has not been attempted to describe actual skin eruptions, although there are some excellent plates of certain conditions; but the author deals rather with the method of production of these eruptions, and, as he points out, the study of the diseases of the skin is peculiarly dependent on a knowledge of sensitization. The literature on the subject is enormous in volume, but Dr. Low has compiled a bibliography which is a guide to all the important and most recent work.

One cannot withhold a note of commendation on the clearness of expression with which the book is written, the convenience of arrangement, and the general excellence of its production.

H. E. MACDERMOT

A Memoir of William and John Hunter. By George C. Peachey. Large 8vo, xi+313 pp. William Brendon and Son Ltd., Plymouth, 1924.

The author who has given us *The History of St. George's Hospital* found that his researches in records of that hospital and the illustrious members of its staff led him into much detail of the lives of William and John Hunter. He found he could not study the hospital without getting into intimate contact with the life of the great pathologist and naturalist with whose name it will always be associated. Through access to the family documents at Long Calderwood, the home of the Hunters, the author was able to examine, and transcribe at will much biographical material which has not previously been published. He has also been able to correct a number of mistakes as to dates, and other errors which crept into early biographies and which have been copied by late writers who have accepted them as authentic. By a careful study of original papers and records we have been given an intimate picture of the early life and professional attainments of these great men. His study of the early career of William Hunter revealed the lack of published knowledge of the teaching of anatomy before his time. By recounting the legal provisions for the supply of subjects for dissection some idea is gained of the difficulties which confronted the early teachers of anatomy. Early eighteenth century files of newspapers appear to have been searched for the announcements of anatomical demonstrations not published elsewhere. Some fifty pages are devoted to the early teaching of anatomy in London with biographical reference to the teachers when available. The detailed accounts to body snatching which are so well told in Bransby Cooper's *Life of Sir Astley Cooper* do not appear. This article deals rather with schools, men and regulations.

The Hunter family afford an interesting subject for the biographer. The mother "a woman of great worth and considerable talents"; the father "earnest, devout and endowed with plenty of worldly knowledge";

William, who never married, but acted as a parent and teacher to each of his brothers and to his nephew and heir, Matthew Baillie, to whom anatomy owes a debt in some measure comparable to that owed by pathology to John; John, who became the greatest pathologist of his own or perhaps all time and whose unrivalled collection was purchased by the nation; James, who was first educated as a lawyer and whose death in early manhood alone prevented his attaining in medicine a distinction as great as his brothers in anatomy and pathology; the nephew Matthew Baillie whose *Morbid Anatomy* was the first attempt to treat pathology as a special subject; the niece Joanna Baillie whose plays and poems have found a place in English literature. With so much tempting material about him the author has restricted himself to the two illustrious brothers and has given us a memoir which stands as the best which has appeared. Compiled as it is from original sources, all of which have been carefully reviewed there would appear to be little that is of importance for future biographers to discover and record.

J. H. ELLIOTT

The Medical Annual. \$5.00. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, England, 1925.

The Medical Annual of 1925 has as its contributors prominent leaders of the profession in its various branches. Men like Hey Groves, Ramsay Hunt, Leonard Rogers, Lockhart-Mummery, Rolleston, Adson and E. Wyllys Andrews, to mention a few of the writers in this issue; and these bespeak not only authority in their special tasks but also the international character of this valuable book.

If you pick out various subjects here and there that have your particular interest, you will find a most concise but readable résumé of the recent work on those subjects. And there is, in addition, a most useful bibliography to fall back on if one wishes to consult original articles. Subjects like The Sympathetic Nervous System, Lung Abscess, Encephalitis, Tetany, Asthma, Ventriculography, Radium application versus Hysterectomy, etc., which have been well in the forefront of medical attention during the last year or so, are ably and clearly presented. In blood transfusion not only the technique and anaphylaxis but the effect that repeated transfusions have on the donors is presented. In Osteitis Fibrosa the very valuable contribution of Dawson and Struthers is outlined and the relationship of this disease to pathology of the parathyroid gland with consequent abnormal calcium metabolism is shown.

The general practitioner will find the subject of blood pressure of particular interest. Here the recent work of Stocks is given. Stocks' observations were made on individuals between the ages of five and forty with the idea of finding the normal range of systolic, diastolic and pulse pressure.

Many special subjects are covered in this work. Eye, ear, nose, skin, etc., and also a list of new pharmaceutical products and new medical and surgical instruments and appliances are given.

The great usefulness of this work is shown by the fact that one medical librarian said that it is probably the most frequently used book in his library.

W. D. KEITH

The Cerebro-Spinal Fluid in Clinical Diagnosis. By J. Godwin Greenfield, M.D., and E. Arnold Carmichael, M.B. 8vo. xii+272 pp. Price 12/-. Macmillan and Company. London, 1925.

This is an attempt to collect in a small volume all that is definitely known about the nature of cere-